



# Esprit de Corps

A Bulletin of the Washington Service Corps

Washington State  
**SERVICE CORPS**  
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

VOLUME V111 ISSUE 11

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## WSC AmeriCorps Members Team-up

On Friday, March 31, 2007 members of the King County Housing Authority (KCHA) AmeriCorps team and members and staff from Earth Corps, American Red Cross of King and Kitsap

County Ameri-

Corps, City Year, Snohomish County AmeriCorps, WSC Individual Placement members, Washington State Commission and Washington Service Corps staff joined with Washington State Parks staff in an Earth Day project at St. Edward State Park in Kenmore.



*AmeriCorps members install a bench, featuring the AmeriCorps logo, hand-carved by fellow member Erik Hausold.*



*AmeriCorps members from over six programs helped restore St. Edward State Park in Kenmore after winter storm damage.*

The park, located at the north end of Lake Washington, was severely impacted by windstorms and flooding in November and December 2006. Trails were washed out, trees blown down and many of the most heavily used parts of the park became unsafe for use. During an average year more than 650,000 people use the park.

Members cleared limbs and trees, built erosion prevention devices using recycled logs, repaired trails that had been washed out and installed a bench that will provide a welcome place for hikers to rest. The bench features the

AmeriCorps logo hand-carved into the backrest by KCHA AmeriCorps member Erik Hausold who has been serving at the park since January.

KOMO 4 News reporter Molly Shen visited the project and prepared a news piece about the event that aired that evening and featured members from KCHA AmeriCorps and Earth Corps talking about their service and the importance of protecting and preserving public spaces.

The Park staff thanked the members for their work and said that what the group accomplished in one day would have taken park staff nearly two months to finish.

## Director's Corner

Washington Service Corps members, partners and staff celebrate the successful completion of the 2006-2007 program year. WSC Teams host AmeriCorps graduation ceremonies. Organizations thank the members that served with them. Members prepare for life after AmeriCorps and join the ranks of AmeriCorps alum. We have had another great year of service.

I think about all our accomplishments since the first time we spent together at our fall training

*WSC Director, Nancy Pringle, addresses members at a training in Wenatchee.*

conference in Ocean Shores. I remember our opening ceremony there, standing on stage, welcoming everybody and encouraging you all to serve well. Through our service there are more children tutored, families housed, communities strengthened and environments restored.

As the WSC director I am proud of



our amazing accomplishments and I particularly thank all our AmeriCorps members for their service this year.

~ Nancy Pringle

## Governor Invites Volunteers to Executive Mansion



*Charlayne Fale and Layla Guyo are two Federal Way sixth-grade students honored at the event.*

executive mansion.

This year, of the 41 honorees recognized, 12 were recruited by or are working with Washington Service Corps members in local communities. Those honored included two sixth-grade students, high school and college students, parents of young children and retired professionals.

The event, organized by the Washington Commission for National and Community Service, helps promote service and volunteerism to address community needs throughout the state. A major responsibility of Washing-

ton Service Corps members is to recruit community volunteers to expand the services provided in their areas.



*The Washington Service Corps volunteers honored were: Ryan Cariker, Lynelle Church, Charlayne Fale, Layla Guyo, Michael Hinchman, Reilly Johnson, Wendall Kirkpatrick, Sandra Lampe-Martin, Harley Passmore, Vicki Schreiber, Lisa Smith and Damon Wasson*

Each year, members of the Washington Service Corps work with and recruit dedicated volunteers to assist with civic projects across the state. National Volunteer Week, celebrated on April 15 to 21 this year, was a time to honor them. In recognition of this week Governor Chris Gregoire hosted the third annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

A highlight of the week, especially for nominated community volunteers, was having Gov. Gregoire recognize them for their contributions during the ceremony at the



# WSC Staff Navigate the *Roadmap*

In response to the call for AmeriCorps programs to increase civic engagement among members, the Washington Service Corps, in partnership with Service Learning Northwest, created the *Roadmap to Civic Engagement*. All WSC team-based programs complete this service learning curriculum as a team and in turn, facilitate the curriculum with local middle-school aged youth.

This spring the staff at the WSC office had the opportunity to navigate units 1 through 5 of the *Roadmap* during a two-day CE Camp. The group activities in the curriculum provided us a chance to increase staff camaraderie and working through each unit improved our understanding of the process that our teams go through.

This experience and our discus-



*WSC Program Coordinator Robert Brader leads an activity from the Roadmap to Civic Engagement Curriculum. WSC staff spent two days going through the curriculum as a group.*

sion about curriculum improvements will provide us tools to assist teams and create a stronger civic engagement program for all participants. We are excited to

carry out our chosen project of reducing the ecological footprint of our office and organizing a local environmental day during the summer!

## Creating Space for Reflection in Seattle

Why do we choose to serve?  
What is the meaning of a commitment to public service?

Each month AmeriCorps members gather and discuss these types of questions as part of a Civic Reflection program organized by Chloe Horning, a WSC Individual Placement AmeriCorps member. Chloe serves at *Humanities Washington*, an organization that supports local humanities programs and events and incorporates the concept called "Civic Reflection" into their programs.

Civic Reflection includes the practice of reading and discussing short texts that raise fundamental

questions about civic activities of giving, serving, and leading. This year AmeriCorps members and staff had an opportunity to participate in a civic reflection program.

The first program session was held at the March 2007 SERVES conference, and meetings continued once a month in Seattle. Attendees shared a meal together, and then discussed a poem, short story, or essay that had been read in advance. Discussions around the selected texts never fail to stir emotions, raise important issues and reveal truths about service.

This program provides a space in which to step back and reflect on

the question of *why* we serve, and to what end. The answers can be surprising, but ultimately they reaffirm and refresh a commitment to AmeriCorps service.



# Ready\*Corps Team Prepares with ARC Center

Beginning January 2007, three AmeriCorps members from the Spokane Public Schools' Ready\*Corps VISTA team started facilitating the SERT (Student Emergency Response Team) training at The ARC Community

mental disabilities in Spokane County.

This disaster preparedness training has been a popular additional activity for the ARC Community Center clients. The students are

Center have embraced the activity-based instruction. They are learning to work as a team to do search and rescue. The team members learn to work together and coordinate their actions such as to lift fallen objects.



*Ready\*Corps members trained ARC clients in disaster preparedness skills such as fire suppression as part of the SERT program.*

Center in Spokane. The SERT program provides training in areas of disaster preparedness.

The ARC Community Center serves individuals with develop-

gaining skills in disaster preparedness that will help them and their families in the event of a local disaster.

The clients of the ARC Community

The ARC Community Center's After School Program Specialist, Jennie Homb, says "the program gives the special needs population a chance to interact with one another in a community environment." She has worked with the AmeriCorps team to provide a familiar face to the ARC members who sometimes are fearful of new people.

People of all abilities can learn skills in disaster preparedness. For the clients of ARC having these skills not only helps the families of the participants, but strengthens the community and fosters caring and compassion for a group of people who many times are hidden from mainstream society. The ARC clients have a lot to offer and SERT is one way they can demonstrate their value to the community.

## Federal Way Public Schools Team Host Legislators

In honor of National AmeriCorps Week Senator Tracey Eide and Representative Skip Priest visited the Federal Way Public Schools AmeriCorps program.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Representative Priest toured multiple elementary schools. He met with principals and reading specialists, observed an AmeriCorps member tutoring a

student and discussed the importance of AmeriCorps service.

Earlier in the week, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, Senator Eide talked with two members leading the team's civic engagement project and learned that the team choose to address homelessness and sponsored a walkathon called "Dreamwalk". The proceeds raised will go to-

wards a drop-in center for the homeless through South Sound Dream Center, a faith-based organization.

Senator Eide offered ongoing support to the team's project and met again with members and two founders of the Center to brainstorm possible locations for the drop-in center.



# The State Legislature Supports Reading Corps

The Washington Reading Corps (WRC) has much to celebrate!

The Washington State budget for the 07-09 biennium included the \$2.12 million needed to operate the WRC program. These funds will cover the AmeriCorps member federal cash match, independent program evaluation and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) support.

Many WRC staff and partners contributed to this success by educating

legislators and building bipartisan support of the WRC program. Continued efforts by project supervisors, AmeriCorps members, volunteers and schools to increase visibility and understanding of the WRC, makes the program a continuing success!

*At a celebration for the funding of the WRC program, WSC Deputy Director Terri Barbee and former OSPI Reading Corps Representative Sarah Rich cut a cake decorated with the WRC logo.*



## Grays Harbor Team Plans Family Fun Fair



*Kelsey Borns, an AmeriCorps member with the Grays Harbor Community PRIDE team, helps out with her team's civic engagement project.*

The fair was a huge success and the Grays Harbor Community PRIDE AmeriCorps team would like to make it an annual event.

The Grays Harbor Community PRIDE AmeriCorps team planned and implemented a youth and family fun fair to promote the importance of community service for all people and families within the community.

The fun fair project developed out of the WSC's civic engagement curriculum and was the conclusion from seven weeks of team-training focused on encouraging and demonstrating the importance of volunteerism within our community.

Held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, the fair attracted about 600 attendees from the local community. Children and family members learned more about organizations in the county that offer community service opportunities. Several local businesses and organizations had information booths and helped with funding for the food and prizes.

Kids and their families had a great time and did not want to miss their chance to sit in a real racecar and honk the horn, throw a ball at the dunk tank bulls eye, fish for real gold fish or check out the new recycle bins.



*Grays Harbor Community PRIDE AmeriCorps member Brandy Callaghan assists a young participant in a fishing game at the youth and family fun fair.*

# WSC Celebrates AmeriCorps Week



Washington Service Corps members, alums and community part-

nners celebrated the first-ever National AmeriCorps Week.

Held May 13-20, 2007, it marked a historic milestone as AmeriCorps prepares to welcome its 500,000th member.

The week brings national attention to AmeriCorps programs and helps recognize AmeriCorps members and alums for the powerful impact their service has in addressing unmet needs in communities across the country.

## WSC Alums Honored for Continued Service

As part of National AmeriCorps Week, the Washington Commission for National and Community Service recognized outstanding AmeriCorps alums.

Six Washington Service Corps alums were honored for their ongoing commitment to service. These alums have made service and volunteerism part of their lives following their AmeriCorps experiences.

The WSC alums that were honored include Carolyn Benard, Danielle Bonner, Doug Copley, Missy Green, Lauren McGowan and Wanda Rochelle.



*Wanda Rochelle, pictured on the left, began working with a social service organization called the Safe Streets Campaign located in Tacoma immediately following her AmeriCorps terms of service.*

## Reading Volunteers Appreciated

What a day, what an event! May 17th was one of those days when you're happy to be alive and proud to be an AmeriCorps volunteer. As part of National AmeriCorps Week, the Washington Reading Corps (WRC) was excited to be part of the senior volunteer ice cream social held again at St. Johns Cathedral.

The WRC along with RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Pro-

gram), the YMCA, the Foster Grandparent Program, and Country Homes ESL School celebrated our senior (55+) reading volunteers with an old fashioned ice cream social.

Along with the delicious brownies, Nanaimo bars, cookies and sundaes we had legislative reports from Rep. John Ahern and Sen. Chris Marr. They both spoke of how the legislature is concerned

about state test scores and how volunteers can make a world of difference.

The Washington Reading Corps, ESD 101 was proud that 25 of our senior volunteers were recognized and given a certificate signed by Gov. Christine Gregoire for their diligent volunteering with our struggling K-6 readers. A good time was had by all who attended this wonderful springtime event.

# Reflections Shared at Symposium

AmeriCorps members from over a dozen WSC teams attended the 12th annual Northwest National Service Symposium held in conjunction with National AmeriCorps Week.

About 300 national service participants, including WSC members, from across Washington and Oregon gathered May 14-15 at Portland State University for the event.

Coordinated by the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory, Symposium provides an opportunity for members to share their service stories, poems, fiction, visual and performing arts. Members reflected upon their service as they attend and lead workshops.

This year many WSC members had work accepted into Symposium. Seven of the ten Finalist and four of the ten Jury's Choice recipients were WSC members.



*Jury's Choice recipients presented their work at the Symposium Banquet. Among them was Laura Hoffman an Individual Placement member serving at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.*

## Growth by Laura Hoffman

I flip through my three-ring binder, noting that the square calendar box for June 12th is bare before I confirm a teacher's upcoming field trip date, and staple an attached reminder that students shall not chase geese or chuck rocks at elderly bird watchers while on their field trip at the wildlife refuge

I slip my tongue over the subtle adhesive goo, sliding my pointer finger across the V shape of the envelope fingertips tap dance across keyboard keys, plucking e-mails to the rhythm of the ticking wall clock

Outside, the emblem of our country hangs lazily from its pole, the mailboxes cherry red hand is raised high in the air wood ducks wade in the march amongst swollen cattails duckweed disperses and gathers in patches around the pond perimeter

Two mallards waddle across the gravel trail, pausing only to drop strudels of fecal matter in dashed line formations a little boy with blond ringlets sits on his dad's shiny bald as they head toward the boardwalk

I work here to teach children about the few open fields and rolling bluffs remaining in sound Puget Sound Simultaneously, I'm blanketed in hope and caught up in thought

Tell me, Mr. Developer,  
What has become of the prairies and farms  
Why do children have to travel to federally protected lands  
To experience a sanctuary of cottonwood canopies and cattail marshlands

Tell me, what has become of the neighborhoods bordering this Refuge?  
Where did you put all the flowered fields and tangled berries,  
The sandcastles and rivers from garden hoses, replaced by  
Shotgun houses that no one really lives in

Someday, the wide-eyed kids I lead on field trips will grow up,  
Knowing the importance of preserving open space  
And sometimes, when they will say "no!"  
To the plowing and leveling of land,  
Developers will stop  
And other times, they will laugh,  
Turn the key and crush the frogs.

# Alums Celebrate Commitment to Service

In connection with the Northwest Service Symposium, Washington State and Oregon alums organized a reception sponsored by a grant from Hands On Network for National AmeriCorps Week to honor alums' continued commitment to service. The event was held at McMenamins Kennedy School in Portland. Over 60 people

turned out to enjoy dessert and each other's company.

Honored guests included Washington and Oregon State Commission staff as well as Amity Tripp, Director of Alums. Bill Basl, Director of the Washington State Commission for National and Community Service spoke about continuing to share your story.

The emphasis of the evening was to connect and celebrate alums and to encourage soon-to-be alums to stay connected through the alumni organization and community. Any current member or alum can register online at [www.americorpsalums.org](http://www.americorpsalums.org).



# Washington State SERVICE CORPS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT



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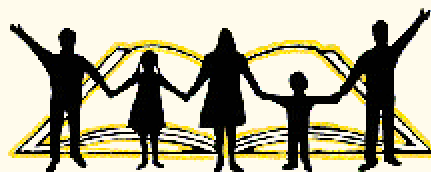
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**WASHINGTON  
READING CORPS**

*Washington State*  
**READY★CORPS**

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This bulletin is based upon work supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) under grant #03ACHWA0010001. Opinions and points of view expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of AmeriCorps, CNCS or the Employment Security Department.